

**Public Works Committee of the Town of Amherst  
Minutes of the December 6, 2012 regular meeting**

First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, Amherst

**In attendance:** Steve Braun (chair), Richard Fein, Christine Gray-Mullen, Charlie Moran, William Mullin, Guilford Mooring (Superintendent DPW)  
Guests: John Willoughby (Dana St.) and Rhys Davies (Blue Hill Rd.)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

**Administrative matters:** Minutes of the November 1, 2012 meeting were approved 5-0

**Next Meeting:** January 3, 2013 (tentative)

**Report of Guilford Mooring:** Main St. paving and sidewalk work will soon be finished. Asphalt plants have shut down, ending this year's road repair/resurfacing work.

**Speed Control Requests on Dana St. and Blue Hills Rd.:** John Willoughby from Dana St. and Rhys Davies from Blue Hills Rd. presented requests from residents of these streets for speed control measures, specifically speed humps. These roads are used as cut-throughs for traffic seeking to avoid downtown intersections.

Mr. Willoughby said that the verbal consensus from residents of Dana St is that they would like speed bumps installed. He also presented a petition having 38 resident signatures. The residents did not feel that 25 mph speed-limit signs by themselves would be very useful. The only sidewalk fronts just the first five houses on the Route 9 end. The street is not well lit at night.

Mr. Davies noted that 21 children live on Blue Hills Rd. The greatest speed problem is at the south end of Blue Hills. The resident vote in favor of speed humps on the street was 39 in favor, 5 abstaining, and 1 no (which meant only "not in front of my house"). He noted that if only Dana or Blue Hills got speed control measures, traffic might shift to the other street, hence it was imperative that the streets be considered together. Lowering speed is considered more important than lowering the volume of cars.

**Motion:** To reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety on Dana Street and Blue Hills Road, the PWC recommends that speed humps/tables be installed during the 2013 paving season, the design and spacing of the humps/tables to be determined by the DPW in accordance with established guidelines from the Institute of Traffic Engineers.

Voted 4-0 with one member (Moran) recusing himself because he lives on Dana Pl.

**Sidewalk priority list:** Mr. Mooring presented sidewalk priority lists from 1992, 1994, 1999, and 2004 showing what the PWC favored at those times. Some on the list now have sidewalks, but many still do not. The 2007 list included proposed sidewalks on Old Farm Rd., East Pleasant St, Strong St., East Hadley Rd., and Southeast St. Of these Mr.

Mooring felt the sidewalks on Southeast St. (from Colonial Village to Belchertown Rd; 2007 projected cost: \$77K) and East Pleasant St. (from Village Park to Eastman Lane; \$98 K plus \$100K for culvert improvement) had the highest priority. State or federal funding was possible for these projects, he said. The committee decided to examine the conditions personally and make a decision at the January meeting.

**Options for Pine St.:** The state grant proposal for paving and redesign work on Pine Street related to new sewer/water system work has been rejected. The sewer/water work will proceed in 2013 with \$1 million funding coming from the Sewer and Water enterprise funds. Whether Pine Street is repaved in its existing right-of-way, or is widened and improved along the lines of designs included in the state grant proposals will depend on the availability of town funds. Such work would likely be completed in the 2014 construction season.

**Road Repaving funds:** Town Meeting voted to raise \$1 million for repaving roads. Chapter 90 money will come to approximately \$500K. The committee discussed ways of choosing which roads would be chosen for repair. A lottery was one suggestion. In the end the Committee decided that the funds would cover repaving if we could choose according to the following conditions: 1) present grade is 0.00, 2) road is not a cul-de-sac, 3) only one six-figure repaving occurs in any one neighborhood; and 4) Mill Ln., Old Montague Rd., Harris St., Fisher St., and Pulpit Hill Rd. are eliminated for other reasons. Mr. Moran and Ms. Gray-Mullen will check the total to make sure these conditions give a list that does not exceed the funding available and will report back at the next meeting.

**Gallagher Paving Machine Report:** Mr. Mooring reported that the Gallagher paving machine has not been a complete success. Sunderland Rd. and some of University Dr. are already showing cracks. These poor results are partly due to the previous condition of the roads. The results on North Pleasant St. are satisfactory since it was initially better suited to this kind of repair.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted: William Mullin